

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-21 are amended, claims 22-25 are canceled, and claims 26-28 are added. Thus, claims 1-21 and 28 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 17, and 18, and for new claims 26-28 may be found at least in FIGS. 3-5, the associated disclosure, and the original claims. The remaining claim amendments are made for clarity and are supported by the original claims. The specification is also amended for clarity, as requested by the Examiner. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Najee-Ullah and Lee in the April 3 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

The title is objected to as non-descriptive. By this Amendment, Applicants amend the title to be even more descriptive of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 11 is objected to for an informality. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 11 to correct the informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as non-statutory. By this Amendment, claims 22-25 are canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection. Applicants note that new claim 26 recites functional descriptive material stored in a computer-readable storage medium, which is statutory subject matter under §101 (see MPEP §2106.01(I)).

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0156923 (Tanimoto). As claims 22-25 are canceled, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-21.

Specifically, Tanimoto at least fails to disclose a portable operation member that is insertable into an opening in a switch interface of a communication device to form a switch, the operation of the switch causing the transmission of access data from a memory in the operation member to the communication device to access a webpage, as required by claims 1, 17, and 18 (and new claim 26).

In this respect, it is alleged by the Office Action that the facsimile server device 20 of Tanimoto is equivalent to the claimed "portable operation member." However, the facsimile server device 20 is not inserted into (and does not include any structure that is inserted into) an opening in a switch interface of a communication device to form a switch, the operation of the switch causing the transmission of access data from a memory in the operation member to an accessing system of the communication device to access a webpage, as required by claims 1, 17, and 18 (and new claim 26).

Furthermore, during the personal interview, Examiner Najee-Ullah suggested that either the RAM or ROM disclosed in paragraph [0061] of Tanimoto could be considered equivalent to the "portable operation member," recited in claims 1, 17, 18, and 26. However, neither the RAM nor ROM of Tanimoto can reasonably be considered equivalent to the claimed "portable operation member," for at least the following reasons.

First, although some types of RAM are removable, the RAM disclosed in Tanimoto is volatile. That is, it only temporarily stores data while power is being supplied to the RAM. In this respect, paragraph [0061] of Tanimoto explicitly discloses that the RAM stores "temporary data generated at the time the program is performed." Because the RAM

disclosed in Tanimoto is volatile, it is incapable of storing "first access data," when disconnected from an "interface unit," as at least implied in claims 1, 17, 18, and 26.

Second, although a ROM is non-volatile, it is not removable in the manner that RAM is removable. Thus, the ROM disclosed in Tanimoto cannot reasonably be considered "portable," as required by claims 1, 17, 18, and 26.

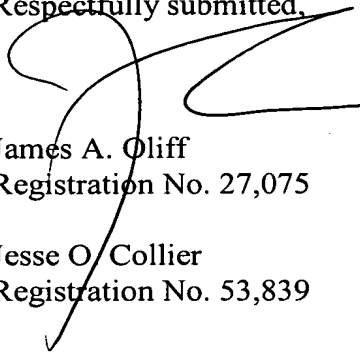
Third, neither the RAM nor ROM in Tanimoto are disclosed as insertable into the opening of the interface unit to form a switch that is operable by a user of the communication device, as required by claims 1, 17, 18, and 26. Specifically, the RAM and ROM disclosed in Tanimoto are simply internal components of personal computer 30 and do not in any way form a switch which a user can operate.

Thus, claims 1, 17, and 18 (and new claim 26) are patentable over Tanimoto. Further, claims 2-16 and 19-21 are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 7, 2008

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